



CABINET – MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023

ORDER PAPER

ITEM DETAILS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1. MINUTES (Pages 3-10)

Proposed motion

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2023 be taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

2. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman has agreed to take one urgent item - a joint report of the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Environment and Transport regarding a report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman concerning post-16 Special Education Transport.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Cabinet are asked to declare any interests in the business to be discussed.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT 2023/24 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND WORKS PROGRAMME (Pages 11-64)

- *Comments have been received from Mr. Max Hunt CC, Labour Group Environment Spokesperson, a copy of which is attached to this Order Paper, marked "4". With the permission of the Chairman, Mr. Hunt will speak on this item.*

Proposed motion

- a) That the evermore acute financial context in which the Highways and Transportation Capital Programme and Works Programme have been developed and will be delivered, as set out in Part B of this report be noted;
- b) That the Environment and Transport 2023/24 Highways and Transportation Capital Programme and Works Programme be approved;

- c) That the Director of Environment and Transport be authorised,
- i. following consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Cabinet Lead Members for Highways and Transportation and Corporate Resources, to prepare and submit bids, as appropriate, to secure external funding for delivery of schemes identified in the Highways and Transportation Capital Programme and Works Programme;
 - ii. following consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources, to enter into such contracts as is necessary to progress schemes in the approved Highways and Transportation Capital Programme and Works Programme to allow early contractor involvement to take place in advance of all external funding required to deliver the scheme being secured, subject to the key principles set out in paragraph 18 of the report; and
 - iii. following consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Lead Member for Corporate Resources, to undertake preparatory work as considered appropriate to develop savings as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and to consider further savings and implemented in a timely manner.

5. LEICESTERSHIRE RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY 2022-2050 (Pages 65-338)

Proposed motion

- a) That the findings of the public consultation on the draft Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy be noted;
- b) That the adoption of the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy be approved.

6. LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP DRAFT INTEGRATED CARE STRATEGY (Pages 339-376)

Proposed motion

That the comments set out in paragraphs 15 to 23 of the report be approved as the views of the County Council on the draft Integrated Care Strategy, to be submitted to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

7. LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026 (Pages 377-424)

Proposed motion

- a) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commission on the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2026 be noted;
- b) That the County Council at its meeting in May be recommended to approve the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

8. EXCEPTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES - URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSORS (Pages 425-430)

Proposed motion

That the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive to directly award by exception in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules to allow the current 'Standing List' arrangement for Mental Health Assessors to be maintained from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2024, or until the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards legislation is updated, be noted.

9. EXCEPTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES - URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE WINTER DISCHARGE FUND (Pages 431-436)

Proposed motion

That the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive to agree an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules to approve the direct award of a contract on behalf of the Integrated Care Board to Voluntary Action South Leicestershire running until the 31 March 2023 with a maximum value of £310,000, be noted.

10. DATES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023/24 TO 2024/25 (Pages 437-438)

Proposed motion

That the County Council be recommended to hold meetings on the following dates during the next two municipal years:-

Wednesday 5 July 2023
 Wednesday 27 September 2023
 Wednesday 6 December 2023
 Wednesday 21 February 2024 (to consider the budget)
 Wednesday 15 May 2024 (Annual meeting)
 Wednesday 3 July 2024
 Wednesday 25 September 2024
 Wednesday 4 December 2024
 Wednesday 19 February 2025 (to consider the budget)
 Wednesday 14 May 2025 (Annual meeting).

11. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

None.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED TO TAKE AS URGENT -

An urgent report has been circulated separately -

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN REPORT
REGARDING POST-16 SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORT (Supplementary
Pack Pages 3-26)****Proposed motion**

- a) That the public report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) be noted;
- b) That the Director of Environment and Transport be required to implement the recommendations of the LGSCO as set out in paragraphs 52 to 53 of the LGSCO Report.

Officer to contact

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Submission to CabinetApril 24th 2023

From Max Hunt CC, Labour Environment Spokesperson

**Item 4: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
2023/24 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND WORKS PROGRAMME**

Leicestershire's existing Highways Assets

As the report says, current funding levels are insufficient to maintain to current standards for Leicestershire's existing highways assets and without additional funding from other sources, the condition of the County's roads and other assets will continue to decline.

The Highway Asset Condition provides a compelling case for further funding, not least with the prospect of more numerous and more heavy vehicles. These are costs which have already been pared down and failure to invest only carries higher costs in the future.

In addition, the replacement of Zouch Bridge remains a long running demand on the MTFS with increasing cost.

This is an excellent case made in the report which needs the Cabinet's priority.

Major Capital Works Programme.

The estimated costs of new roads in the Capital Works Programme dwarf the rest of the Programme. These are likely to rise again if the business case is approved.

What are we to make of paragraph 20? It admits these figures are large and that **the county council's financial position is "dire"** – but then claims that the Programme has been developed to fit within the evermore restricted budgets.

We are told in para 3 that further savings will be considered and implemented in a timely manner, but not fully specified or costed.

We know from earlier submissions that the Programme cannot be met without borrowing, yet the report asserts rather equivocally "*no or limited prudential borrowing*" and then adds "*only if the returns exceed the borrowing costs*". We should not be misled. This last statement is meaningless, not least because it omits the term of any returns, the terms of the borrowing and the risk associated.

The Case for more Road Building in Leicestershire.

The preamble of the report lists a range of policies and strategies, many of which conflict. Those policies which conveniently run counter to the Programme, such as our Carbon reduction targets are conveniently overlooked. The headline Local Transport Plan is now out of date, with its successor unfinished and unpublished.

Climate change imperatives, accepted by the county council require that we change to electric vehicles but, partly due to the slow progress made towards targets, that we have to reduce traffic on the roads. However, we are told that *A511 works will increase peak time traffic by 77%*. Hardly a surprise since it links *the M1 J22 with A42 J13*. Local Plans continue to plan for housing estates dependent on more cars on our roads and increasing congestion further.

At this point the paper leaves the realms of engineering and turns to sociology. It's all our fault and our *societal behaviours and expectations*. The *county's transportation system* cannot be changed.

The County's Transportation System is a system of ever growing congestion on the deteriorating roads, parked cars, poor public transport, stranding those without exclusive use of a car, and where the young and old are seldom considered. And to make matters worse we will have to pay for it by borrowing the money.

According to our transport planners, we are stuck with this undesirable and unsustainable County Transportation System. Our Carbon reduction obligations are not addressed. Some estimation of the effect on carbon emissions from new road building in the capital plan is surely required.